



Judging Workshop



Deborah L. Roberts, ATM-B

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Duties of a Judge

A Judge's duty is NOT to Evaluate the Speakers!!

- ❖ An Evaluator looks for ways to improve the speech.
- ❖ A Judge PICKS A WINNER.





Duties of a Judge (cont.)

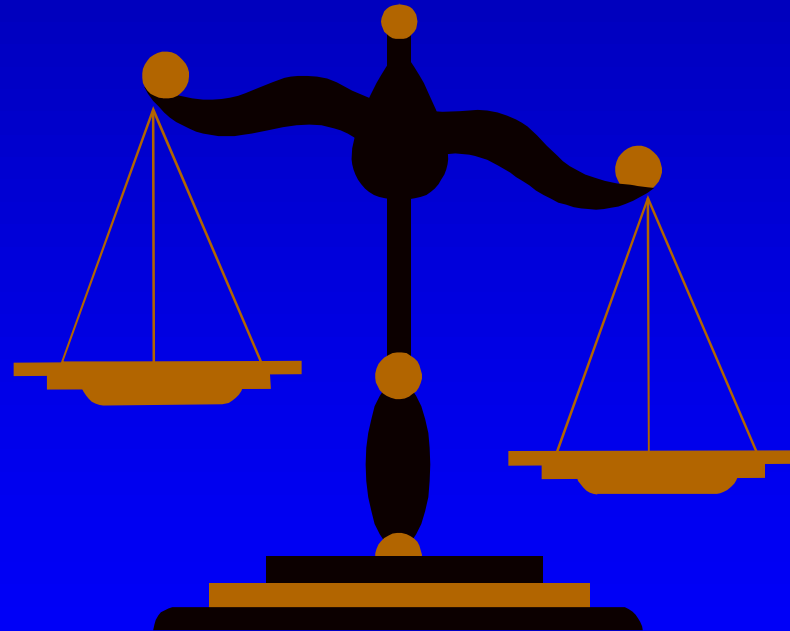
A Judge's duty is not to evaluate the Speakers!!

- ◆ An evaluator appraises a speech, measures the speaker's presentation against his or her purpose, then advises the speaker on how to improve the speech.
- ◆ A judge's duty is only to PICK A WINNER - to select the speaker who has given the best speech on that day. The judge's decision is confidential. Judges are NOT to explain their decision to contestants, or tell contestants how they could improve. To do so distracts judges from their purpose, and can cause them to judge improperly. The result is a bad decision.

Qualities of a Judge

❖ To make a good decision, a Judge must be:

- ◆ ACCURATE
- ◆ FAIR
- ◆ TRUSTWORTHY
- ◆ KNOWLEDGEABLE
- ◆ GOOD LISTENER





Qualities of a Judge (cont.)

To make a good decision, a Judge must be:

- ◆ **ACCURATE.** Good judges are dedicated to making a correct decision. They fill out the judging form correctly, and add point totals carefully.
- ◆ **FAIR.** Good judges are totally impartial. Good judges don't allow friendship, affiliation, age, sex, race, creed, national origin, profession, or disapproval of speech topics to interfere with their decision.
- ◆ **TRUSTWORTHY.** Good judges realise that contestants, contest officials and the audience have entrusted them with the responsibility of selecting the best speaker as winner. They live up to that trust. Unfortunately, there have been cases where judges have marked down better speakers so a favoured speaker could place. Good judges would never dream of doing such a thing.



Qualities of a Judge (cont.)

- ◆ **KNOWLEDGEABLE.** Good judges know the current contest rules. They study the rules before each contest and they make no exceptions to the rules. They are familiar with the judging form, and they know how to judge properly.
- ◆ **GOOD LISTENERS.** Good judges listen carefully to each speaker. They don't daydream or become distracted.



How to Judge a Contest

- ❖ Judging is “subjective”. We need to be “objective.”
- ❖ Try to be as objective as possible.
- ❖ Have a Panel of Judges, including some from outside the contest area
- ❖ Having a Panel of Judges overcomes the bias of one judge.



How to Judge a Contest (cont.)

Judging is a 'subjective' process, which we try to make 'objective'. If we could be totally objective, there would be no problem. We would need only one judge. But it's almost impossible for everyone to be totally objective. Each one of us has likes and dislikes that unconsciously affect our decisions. That's why we have a panel of judges. With several judges, we can overcome the bias of any one judge.



Barriers to Objectivity

- ❖ **First or Last Speaker is the Best**
- ❖ **Let's Help the Underdog**
- ❖ **Halo Effect**
- ❖ **Reverse Halo Effect**
- ❖ **Give Someone else a Chance**
- ❖ **Not Familiar with Judging Forms**
- ❖ **Prejudices & Personal Preferences**
- ❖ **2nd Time Around Syndrome**



Barriers to Objectivity (cont.)

❖ First or Last Speaker is the Best

Don't use the first speaker as a standard for other speakers. Instead, rate all speakers against the standard criteria, not against each other. Judges should come to the contest with their own standards for speakers.

❖ Let's help the Underdog

"Give poor Joe a break. He keeps trying, but never wins." A brand new Toastmaster should not be given more credit than an experienced speaker. New Toastmasters, experienced Toastmasters and even professional speakers must be judged by the same criteria.

❖ Halo Effect

"Sam was great last year... he's bound to win this year". Don't allow one area of judging to influence another. The past record of achievement should not be considered in judging the current contest



Barriers to Objectivity (cont.)

❖ Reverse Halo Effect

“Bad Grammar ...therefore, bad speech.” Don’t allow poor performance in one area to affect judging in another area.

❖ Give someone else a chance

“He won last year, let someone else have a chance this year.” “She blew it at the division contest last year, let’s give someone else a chance.” Again, past performance should not be considered.

❖ Judges not familiar with Judging forms

Judges should have used the judging forms in the past. The contest should not be the first time the judge has seen the form. Judges must be familiar with the full use of the forms, including completing the bottom portion properly.



Barriers to Objectivity (cont.)

❖ Prejudices and Personal Preferences

A judge's personal agreement or disagreement with the speaker's point of view should not influence the judging. Individual preferences for the types of speeches and style of delivery should not influence the objective judging of the speech. We can try to be more fair by asking questions such as:

- What do I like or dislike about this speech?
- Is what I like or dislike relevant to this speech?

❖ 2nd Time Around Syndrome

“He gave this speech a lot better at the last contest”. Speeches must be judged with a fresh viewpoint; as if they are being heard for the first time.



Barriers to Objectivity (cont.)

BARRIER

- ◆ First or last Speaker is Best
- ◆ Let's Help the Underdog
- ◆ Halo
- ◆ Reverse Halo
- ◆ Second Time Around
- ◆ Give Someone Else a Chance
- ◆ Club Norms
- ◆ Prejudice & Personal Preference
- ◆ Unfamiliar Judging Forms

Judging Challenge

- ◆ Treat each speaker the same
- ◆ Don't let feelings influence judging
- ◆ Resist giving high marks for anything but good performance
- ◆ Don't downgrade in one area because of performance in other areas
- ◆ Judge the speech as if this is the first time hearing it
- ◆ NEVER consider past performance
- ◆ Think about norms in your club. Then determine whether they should be applied universally
- ◆ Set aside likes and dislikes by asking: What do I like/dislike about this speech, & Is what I like/dislike relevant?
- ◆ Study them thoroughly



The Judging Form

- ❖ Read over before hand
- ❖ Print and sign name on bottom
- ❖ List 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place. NO Ties
- ❖ Keep form hidden from stray eyes
- ❖ Hand in lower portion only
- ❖ Dispose of properly afterward



PICK
A
WINNER

